

Heads in the clouds?

We wish The Colony well — but advise caution — in the wake of information that followers of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi want to construct the world's tallest building there. Or if not there, perhaps somewhere else in the Metroplex.

Though Maharishi Yogi clearly has a magnetic personality and a spiritual philosophy appealing to many, it's been our experience that not all the projects that he or his followers undertake work out particularly well.

Arlington can testify to this.

Recollect that a group — Heaven on Earth Inns — headed by the meditation guru some years ago bought the former Flagship Inn property, originally the Inn of Six Flags.

An attempt to rebuild the property ended up in a dispute over unpaid wages by workers at the site. Further, the hotel's Crystal Ballroom — once a popular site for appearances by prominent entertainers and as a host site for high-brow events — was damaged by two different fires that inves-

THE COLONY An ambition to build the world's tallest skyscraper deserves thoughtful meditation.

tigators said had suspicious origins.

For a while, the Maharishi considered converting the complex into a transcendental meditation school, but that idea, too, never worked out.

Now the old resort property has essentially been bulldozed to make way for a 20-acre office campus, though the timing for that idea is also not particularly supported by current economic realities. The vacancy rate for office space in the Metroplex in recent months has been bouncing around the 20 to 25 percent rate, according to various data firms.

Perhaps the world's highest building will be built in the Metroplex someday. But before accepting such a proposal, we'd suggest that whatever city is involved follow some of the guru's own advice: Meditate long and seriously before saying "yes."

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